

BOOK NOTICE

Biological Survey of the Mount Desert Region. Part VI, The Insect Fauna. By William Procter, D.Sc. Published by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia, 1938. 496 p., 1 port., 1 fold. map, 11 illus.

This dignified and well printed book is a check list of the insects collected on the Island of Mount Desert, Maine, and is Part VI of the Biological Survey of the Mount Desert Region, founded and directed by the author of the present volume. Records are given of species collected during the past twenty years, and exclusive of the mites and spiders, there are 5,352 species listed in 2,203 genera and 297 families. This rich insect fauna flourishes amid a diversified flora embracing plants typical of the arctic region, of the Canadian zone and of the southern coastal plain. According to the author, Mount Desert in places is almost undisturbed ecologically, but he fears that this condition will not continue, owing to the gipsy moth and to activities in "improving" the woods. Doctor Procter's list is plentifully interspersed with notes on food plants, and on where to look for many of the species, and I am glad to note that the months of the year have not been reduced to Roman numerals. These characteristics increase readability and interest and give life to the list.

The Lepidoptera are represented by 1,374 species, the Diptera by 1,370, the Hymenoptera by 1,008, and the Coleoptera by 888. In the sixteen remaining orders the total number of species is 712, but additional collecting is bound to increase this.

Entomologists interested in geographical distribution will find this list useful and authentic and a welcome contribution to our slowly growing fund of knowledge about the insect faunas of particular regions. I personally appreciate the appearance of this list because it has revived my interest in the types of insect food habits prevalent in certain areas, and I expect to utilize the list in a study of such types on Mount Desert Island.

Doctor Procter's book is dedicated to the memory of Charles W. Johnson, who is still remembered with appreciation and fondness by many entomologists.—H. B. WEISS.